

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 192240
ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-05 INT-05
EPA-04 /060 R

DRAFTED BY OES/ENP/EN:BLLONG:DR
APPROVED BY OES/ENP/EN:DR. KING
ARA/MEX - H. LANE
ARA/MEX - T.R. MARTIN
-----023345 131917Z /41

R 130215Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS STATE 192240

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, MX, OCON

SUBJECT: BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO UN DESERTIFICA-
TION CONFERENCE

REFERENCES: (A) MEXICO 12192; (B) STATE 169202; (C)
MEXICO 11435; (D) STATE 154968

MEXICO FOR SCICOUNS

NAIROBI FOR UNEP PERM REP

BEGIN SUMMARY: JULY 27-29 CONSULTATION IN TUCSON VIEWED
BY DEPARTMENT AS INFORMATIVE AND OTHERWISE VERY USEFUL.
DISCUSSIONS BROADRANGING AND FRANK, AND DEPARTMENT BE-
LIEVES BOTH COUNTRIES EMERGED MUCH BETTER PREPARED TO AD-
DRESS IMPORTANT DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE ISSUES, AND IN
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COOPERATIVE FASHION. MEMBERS OF DELEGATION LISTED PARA.
7 BELOW. LANGUAGE PROBLEM WHICH HAD THREATENED TO REQUIRE
POSTPOMEMENT OF MEETING SOLVED SATISFACTORILY (IN OUR
VIEW) BY PRESENCE OF TWO INTERPRETERS WHO PROVIDED CONSECU-
TIVE INTERPRETATION AS REQUIRED. END SUMMARY.

1. U.S.-MEXICO CONSULTATIONS COVERED FOLLOWING BROAD

TOPICS: (A) REVIEW OF RESPECTIVE POSITIONS AND PLANS FOR UN DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE; (B) DESERTIFICATION

PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THE U.S. AND MEXICO; AND CURRENT ACTIVITIES; AND (C) COMMON PROBLEMS THAT MIGHT LEND THEMSELVES TO FUTURE REGIONAL COOPERATION.

2. DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS - U.S. ABLE TO PROVIDE SPANISH VERSION OF FINAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR CONFERENCE WHICH MEXICANS HAD NOT RECEIVED. EACH SIDE REVIEWED ITS POSITIONS ON ACTION PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS AND EXCHANGED COMMENTS. MEXICANS CHARACTERIZED U.S. EMPHASIS ON LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AS LACKING "SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS". THEY STRESSED CONFERENCE MUST FOCUS ON MAN AND HIS LONG TERM SOCIAL WELL-BEING, AND NEED TO DEAL WITH NEIO, TRANSNATIONAL AND OTHER ECONOMIC-POLITICAL ISSUES. U.S. DEL EMPHASIZED OUR SIMILAR CONCERN ABOUT SOCIAL EQUITY, BASIC HUMAN NEEDS, ETC., BUT NOTED IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO KEEPING CONFERENCE TARGETED ON IMPORTANT AND UNIQUE SET OF DESERTIFICATION PROBLEMS THAT ARE PREVENTING ACHIEVEMENT OF SOCIAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL OBJECTIVES. BELIEVE EXCHANGE ON THIS ISSUE VERY IMPORTANT, AND WILL CLEARLY INFLUENCE TONE AND CONTENT OF U.S. PRESENTATIONS AT CONFERENCE. NEXT SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF INDIVIDUAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN ACTION PLAN REVEALED CLOSE AGREEMENT ON CHANGES EACH COUNTRY PLANS

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TO INTRODUCE IN NAIROBI AND CONGRUENCE OF POSITIONS RE NUMBER OF OTHER IMPORTANT CONFERENCE ISSUES (INCLUDING INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS). MEXICANS INITIALLY SAID THEY WOULD PUSH FOR REMOVAL OF REFERENCES IN ACTION PLAN TO NEED FOR "DEMOGRAPHIC STUDIES" BUT FINALLY AGREED TO SUPPORT U.S. POSITION THAT THIS IS VITAL FOR MANY COUNTRIES AND SHOULD REMAIN.

3. REGIONAL DESERTIFICATION PROBLEMS - DELEGATION SPENT SECOND DAY DESCRIBING MAJOR DESERTIFICATION PROBLEMS RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES FACE. JACK JOHNSON SUMMARIZED U.S. NATIONAL REPORT ON SUBJECT, AND EACH OF DELEGATION MEMBERS THEN ADDRESSED SPECIALIZED TOPICS (E.G., WATER, RANGELAND, ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND WILDLIFE). MEXICAN PRESENTATION FOLLOWED SAME FORMAT. AREAS IN WHICH COMMON INTERESTS APPEARED INCLUDED: DROUGHT PLANNING; USE OF SALINE WATER FOR AGRICULTURE; IMPROVED IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY; USE OF SEWAGE AND SLUDGE FOR IRRIGATION AND SOIL AMENDMENTS; ECONOMIC USE OF DESERT VEGETATION; BIOSPHERE RESERVES AND PROTECTED AREAS; SATELLITE MONITORING; GROUNDWATER DYNAMICS AND MANAGEMENT; RANGELAND MANAGEMENT; DETERMINATION OF CARRYING CAPACITY;

PRINCIPLES OF MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT; AND IMPROVED METEOROLOGICAL/CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA NETWORKS. MEXICANS DID NOT RPT NOT RAISE ANY OLD OR NEW ISSUES INVOLVING SURFACE BOUNDARY WATERS (E.G., COLORADO). ONLY CITED PAST PROBLEMS AND INDICATED THEY WERE BEING ADDRESSED.

4. FUTURE COOPERATION - MEXICAN DELEGATION REVIEWED EXISTING BILATERAL S&T AGREEMENT, AND NEW MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN USDA AND CONACYT. AGREED WITH US DEL THAT THESE PROVIDE GOOD FRAMEWORK ADDRESSING MANY OF PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED ABOVE. MEXICANS, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED PESSIMISM THAT ANYTHING MEANINGFUL WILL HAPPEN UNDER PRESENT SITUATION, EXCEPT CONTINUATION OF PEOPLE MOVING BACK AND FORTH TO DO "PLANNING". FURTHER, PAST EFFORTS UNCLASSIFIED

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CONCERNED WITH BASIC SCIENCES TO NEGLECT OF APPLIED SCIENCE, DEMONSTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT. MEXICANS EMPHASIZED LACK OF ADEQUATE FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT AGREEMENTS AS CONSTRAINING USEFUL WORK; AND MADE SPECIAL REFERENCE TO "ASYMMETRIC" NATURE OF EXISTING U.S.-MEXICO COOPERATION SINCE THEIR INSTITUTIONS NOT ABLE TO COST-SHARE WITH U.S. COUNTERPARTS ON 1:1 BASIS. ALSO NOTED THAT OF ALL INTERNATIONAL S&T COOPERATION IN WHICH MEXICO PARTICIPATES, RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. IS ONLY ONE IN WHICH THERE IS NO TRANSFER OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES. MEXICANS DID SINGLE OUT USEFUL WORK BEING DONE ON JOJOBA AND GUAYULE, BUT CLAIMED LITTLE TO SHOW BEYOND THIS. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE COOPERATION VERY GENERAL BUT INTERIGUING CONCEPT EMERGED OF POSSIBLE TRANSECT STUDY ACROSS LARGE BORDER WATERSHED WHICH COULD PROVIDE AN INTERGRATED ANALYSIS AND PROBLEM-SOLVING APPROACH TO A RANGE OF DESERTIFICATION PROBLEMS CONFRONTING BOTH COUNTRIES. MEXICANS INDICATED INTEREST IN OBTAINING U.S. REMOTE SENSING TECHNOLOGY AND SATELLITE DATA UNDER BETTER TERMS.

5. NEXT STEPS - MEXICANS PROPOSED FOLLOW-UP MEETING OF APPROXIMATELY SAME GROUP IN MEXICO NEXT FEBRUARY OR MARCH (AFTER CONFERENCE AND BEFORE SERIES OF REGIONAL MEETINGS WHICH WILL BE HELD IN 1978) TO DISCUSS IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION PLAN. MEXICANS BELIEVE THAT TWO COUNTRIES COULD UNDERTAKE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS AT THAT TIME IN PREPARATION FOR REGIONAL MEETING FOR AMERICAS, AND ALSO ACHIEVE DECISIONS ON STRENGTHENED BILATERAL COOPERATION. U.S. PARTICIPANTS INDICATED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE, AND NOTED THAT RESPECTIVE DELEGATIONS TO NAIROBI COULD PURSUE THIS AS DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE PROCEEDS.

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6. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE LOW-KEY INQUIRY OF ALFREDO RAMIREZ ARAIZA (CONACYT) HEAD OF MEXICAN DELEGATION FOR ASSESSMENT OF HIS VIEWS OF CONSULTATION AND NEXT STEPS. (DEPARTMENT GREATLY APPRECIATES SPECIAL EFFORT BY SCICOUNS TO ENSURE CONSULTATION PROCEEDED ON SCHEDULE).

7. DELEGATION MEMBERS:

- ALFREDO RAMIREZ ARAIZA
- (HEAD, MEXICAN DEL)
- DIRECTOR DE ASUNTOS INTERNACIONALES, CONACYT

- FERNANDO MEDELLIN-LEAL
- DIRECTOR DEL INSTITUTO DE INVESTIGACION
- DE ZONAS DESERTICAS
- UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA DE SAU LUIS POTOSI,

- MANUEL ANAYA GARDUNO
- COLEGIO DE POSTGRADUADOS, CHAPINGO

- VICTOR BLANCO ICAZBALCETA
- COORDINADOR DE PROGRAMAS Y PROYECTOS
- UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA AGRARIA "ANTONIO NARRO"

- ENRIQUE MARTIN-DEL-CAMPO
- CONSEJERO CIENTIFICO
- WASHINGTON

- REGINALDO DE LUNA V.
- JEFE DEPTO. DE RECURSOS NATURALES REMOVABLES
- UNIV. AUT. AGR. AUTONIO NARRO

- JOSE TRUEBA-DAVALOS
- CERRO DE SN. FRANCISCO 211

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- ALFONSO M. MEDINA RAMIREZ
- DIRECCION DE GEOGRAFIA Y METEOROLOGIA
- AVENIDA OBSERVATORIO

- FAUSTO GARCIA CASTANEDA
- ASESOR DE LA SUBDIRECCION DE DESARROLLO
- DIRECCION GRAL. DE ESTUDIOS DEL TERRITORIO NACIONAL

-- AGUSTIN SANCHEZ VAZQUEZ
-- COORDINADOR PROYECTOS INTERNACIONALES
-- DIRECCION ADJUNTA TECNICA - CONACYT

-- EDGARDO FLORES RIVAS
-- SECRETARIA DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES

-- BILL L. LONG
-- (HEAD, U.S. DEL)
-- STATE OES/ENP/EN
-- WASHINGTON

-- KEN D. THELEN
-- NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
-- WASHINGTON

-- RICHARD A. DIERKING
-- U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
-- WASHINGTON

-- CLYDE B. ELLER
-- U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
-- SAN FRANCISCO

-- LISA ROBOCK
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-- NASA HEADQUARTERS
-- WASHINGTON

-- JACK JOHNSON
-- OFFICE OF ARID LANDS STUDIES
-- UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

-- BOBBY R. BOND
-- BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
-- PHOENIX

-- JERRY A. O'CALLAGHAN
-- BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
-- WASHINGTON

-- ELINOR TERHUNE
-- NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
-- WASHINGTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS, SOIL EROSION, CONSULTANTS, DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE192240
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BLLONG:DR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770292-1356
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770864/aaaacbuf.tel
Line Count: 276
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 632df25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MEXICO 12192, 77 STATE 169202
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1608697
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO UN DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE
TAGS: SENV, OCON, MX
To: MEXICO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/632df25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009